

The Icelandic Canadian

Vol. XVI. No 3

Winnipeg, Canada

Spring 1958

EDITORIAL:

GUEST EDITORIAL Dr. B. N. Arnason
In the Editor's Confidence

8

11

ARTICLES and FEATURES

Römm er sú taug, Dr. Tryggvi J. Oleson	12
The Voice of Iceland, W. J. Lindal	17
Re-Forestation of Iceland, Dr. S. E. Bjornson	21
The Cover Verse	24
Toast to Canada	25
Minni Islands	26

THE MUSIC SELECTION, Mrs. Elma Gislason

27

MISCELLANEOUS

They Served Well	31
Even Bugs Have Choosy Tastes	33
The Mid-Winter Celebration,	16
Federation of Ethnic Press of Canada	20

BOOK REVIEW, A. Isfeld

35

IN THE NEWS

40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46,

NEWS SUMMARY

47, 48

THE ICELANDIC CANADIAN

A quarterly published by The Icelandic Canadian Club, Winnipeg, Man.

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

EDITORIAL BOARD: Judge W. J. Lindal, Chairman of the Board and Magazine Committee, 788 Wolseley Ave.; Miss Mattie Halldorson, Secretary, 213 Ruby St.; Dr. I. Gilbert Arnason, 416 Waverley St.; Arelius Isfeld, Ste. "J" Cornwall Apts., 265 River Ave.; Mrs. Ingibjörg Jónsson, Ste 29, 520 Maryland St.; Wilhelm Kristjánson, 499 Camden Place; Mrs. Arnheiður Eyolfson, 1053 Dominion St.; T. O. S. Thorsteinson, 400 Parkview St., St. James; Axel Vopnfjord, 1206 Dominion St.

BUSINESS & CIRCULATION MANAGER: Hjalmur F. Danielson, 869 Garfield St.

ADVERTISING SOLICITOR: C. Einarson, 617 Ingersoll St.

Editorial and news correspondence should be addressed to the Chairman of the Board or to the Editor concerned; subscription and business correspondence to the Business and Circulation Manager.

Subscription rates — \$1.50 per year, in Iceland 24 kr. Single Copies — 40 cents

Representative in Iceland— Frú Ólöf Sigurðard., 26C Vesturgöðu, Reykjavík, Sími 11812
Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

The Need for Co-operation with Under-Developed Countries

by DR. B. N. ARNASON

With the beginning of man's conquest of outer space by sending man-made moons around the earth, it is clear that we have reached one of the great turning points in the history of mankind.

The world has shrunk as never before. We are at the beginning of the atomic age with its unparalleled potential in meeting man's wants or in bringing about his destruction. Man's entry into outer space is just a matter of time according to our scientists. At the same time, the news in our daily press, over the radio, and through the medium of television help to make us realize the extent to which the problems and rivalries of the different countries may effect our future. We are becoming increasingly conscious of the fact that the countries which contain the great majority of the world's population are striving with every means in their power to bring to their people in a short time those technological methods which have given Canada and the United States the highest standard of living in the world, which made Western Europe the dominant force in the world in the nineteenth and earlier part of the twentieth century, and which have, in recent years, made Russia one of the greatest industrial, as well as military powers in the world.

When we remember that these forces are at work not only in South-East Asia but also in Africa and to some extent in South and Central America and the West Indies, we begin to have some conception of the import-

ance of what can almost be called a second industrial revolution. When we remember also that the people in the areas I have mentioned constitute the majority of the world's population, that some of these nations have a long history of civilization and culture which proves that they have just as much ability to make use of the technical methods of the atomic age as we have, it becomes of the utmost importance to us how they use these methods. Will they use them in accordance with the ideals and principles of a democratic society or will they adopt the authoritarian system?

Speaking in the frankest terms, the manner in which these countries adapt the technological methods of the atomic age to the needs of their people may well determine our own future for they have the population and, because of this, time is on their side. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that we help them in every way which is consistent with their feeling of dignity and self-respect and with their desire for recognition as our equals. If we and the other nations of the West will do this, we will not only help them to solve the overwhelming problems of hunger, disease, lack of education and lack of experience in the adoption of democratic methods, but may also make it possible for them to bridge the gap between the Iron Curtain countries and the West where two ideologies are struggling for supremacy. For whichever way these largely under-developed countries turn, from the standpoint of philosophy of gov-

ernment and ways and means of meeting the economic and social needs of their people, that may well determine the fate of Western civilization and therefore the peace of the world.

And speaking of peace, Bertrand Russell is reported to have said, "There is no alternative to peace."

What I have said contains nothing new. It is something to which every thinking person is bound to give increasing attention. But what can we do about it as individuals or groups?

I have chosen as my subject "The Need for Co-operation with Under-Developed Countries". My work over a period of years has been concerned with the administration of co-operative legislation and, through the Department of Co-operation and Co-operative Development, giving assistance to groups who desire to improve their economic status or provide themselves with new or better services on a cooperative basis. Because of this work, our province has been favoured in recent years with visits from an increasing number of individuals and delegations from South-East Asia, the Middle East and latterly from Africa and even Central and South America, who have come here under the Colombo Plan or under the auspices of various agencies of the United Nations to study how co-operative methods might be used to help their people obtain some of the necessities and amenities of life which we take for granted.

Our experience with these people has been a stimulating and a sobering one. Stimulating because of their desire to be of help to their people; sobering because of the almost overwhelming problems with which they have to deal and how much their success in dealing with them may mean to the future of our own people.

It is inevitable that contacts with these people have resulted in some impressions of what we can do to help and I wish to deal with some of these in this address.

By under-developed countries we usually mean those countries whose real per capita income is low compared with the real per capita income of the Western Nations.

The great problem is that of hunger,



Dr. B. N. Arnason

especially amongst the teeming millions of India, Pakistan and perhaps to a lesser degree amongst other South-East Asian countries. Accustomed as we are to a high standard of living, of ease and comfort, I wonder whether we have any real conception of what is meant when we are told that from one half to two-thirds of the human beings on this planet have never known a square meal by our standards, and go to bed hungry every night. Do we have any understanding of the conditions that prevail in a society where the average life expectancy is a little over thirty years?

Do we realize that in most parts of the world a crooked stick is still used

as a plough as it has been for centuries? We in the West think of agricultural production in terms of mechanization. In those parts of the world where the majority of the population live, a major advance in food production, we are told, would be the use of an ordinary walking plough and a scythe. The average Indian peasant, with his five acres of land, has no opportunity of making use of even the smallest implements associated with mechanized farming except on a group basis. This is what can make the co-operative use of farm machinery so important as a means of increasing food production on a substantial scale. In addition, the use of more modern implements would free a large number of workers for Indian industry, thereby helping to meet the great need for capital and consumer goods.

The same lack of even the most elementary production equipment exists amongst the peasants and fishermen of Indonesia, Ceylon and other South-East Asian countries. Another problem is that of improving marketing methods in food products, for example, in rice—the world's most important food commodity.

The problem of increasing food production in these countries is so great that a major reliance must be placed on the ability of the people to help themselves by working together on a co-operative basis even to the extent of providing themselves with the most simple production, processing and marketing equipment. We are giving some assistance by helping representatives of these countries to study our co-operative methods here. A number of Canadian technicians have been sent to them in order to assist in teaching co-operative methods. This is all to the good but

it is only a beginning and much more must be done.

I have spoken of the need for alleviating the problem of hunger in under-developed countries, especially in South-East Asia. Ordinary feelings of compassion would dictate this. But we should remember that one of the great forces in history has been the movement of peoples in search of land as a source of food production. The story of mankind is full of conquests, invasions, destruction of whole nations, and even of civilizations, because of the search by people for food. Hitler recognized the significance of this force by his phoney cry for "living space". The pressures resulting from the need for food exist amongst the majority of the peoples of the world and while these pressures may take forms which differ from the past they are a continual source of unrest, and we ignore them only at our peril. This is why it is of such importance for us to assist these people in solving their problem of food production by co-operative and other production and marketing methods.

Another problem facing these people is lack of capital. Individual savings are very low and there is a very great lack of capital for industrial, irrigation and other public development projects.

The co-operative method of building up savings and the co-operative use of credit is one of the major methods of rehabilitation in under-developed countries. This must be developed side by side with improved techniques in the production of food products. Here again, it is difficult for a Westerner to appreciate the extreme lack of capital and savings on the part of the majority of the world's population and that usury is still one of the world's greatest social and economic evils.

Our contacts with leaders from these countries emphasize that a major obstacle to encouragement of the use of co-operative self-help techniques and more advanced technological methods is illiteracy. For example, I was told recently by a member of an Indian delegation to Canada that at present only about sixteen per cent of the population of his country can read and write. Even this is a major improvement over the eight per cent who were literate when the British left India. In Indonesia we were told that less than ten per cent were literate when the country secured its independence from the Dutch in 1947. There were only a hundred doctors and two hundred lawyers to serve a population of over eighty million. Furthermore, unlike India, Indonesia had virtually

no trained civil service amongst the native population.

While the Governments of India and other Far Eastern countries are bending every effort to reduce illiteracy, the fact that so great a proportion of their population can neither read nor write makes the introduction of Western technological methods extremely difficult. Specialized extension workers in various fields must become teachers. For example, co-operative extension workers and inspectors in Indonesia must teach members of local co-operative societies the rudiments of elementary book-keeping required for the administration of such societies. To do this, these extension workers may, in some instances, have to assume the role of teachers in helping mem-

Continued on Page 36

IN THE EDITOR'S CONFIDENCE

In the Fall, 1956, issue of this magazine we published an editorial by the Chairman of the Board on "The Sovereign Power of Nations and its Limitations." In that editorial an attempt was made to show that as a result of the present world tension and the consequent need of the free nations to combine their forces in organizations such as NATO, the former absolute sovereign power of the nations had, at least to that extent, to be curtailed. It has been felt ever since that a supplementary or rather complementary editorial was needed to focus attention on a duty international in scope that had developed as a result of the strain and feeling of insecurity brought about by the cold war. That duty has arisen in relation to countries which are, relatively,

under-developed countries, which might become the victims of totalitarian aggression if assistance were not given to them. That duty is at once humanitarian and of self-interest. It is humanitarian in that it will help the economy of these countries and it is not without self-interest in that it may develop nations into partners in a combined resistance to aggression.

Fortunately for us, someone else has developed this theme in a very lucid and forcible way. He is Dr. B. N. Arna-
son, the Deputy Minister of Co-operation and Co-operative Development in Saskatchewan, who delivered an address at the annual concert of The Icelandic Canadian Club. That timely address serves the combined purpose of a guest editorial and a special article.

"RÖMM ER SÚ TAUG"

An address delivered at the Annual Banquet of the Icelandic Canadian Club
January 24, 1958

by TRYGGVI J. OLESON, Ph.D.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are gathered here once again tonight at the annual banquet of the Icelandic Canadian Club. And what is it that brings us each year to this gathering? No doubt there are several things, but the main one, I believe, is the fact that even though some of us were born in this country and have never seen Iceland, even though some of us were born in Iceland and came to this country too young to remember what Iceland was like, we still love Iceland and are proud to belong to a people who have throughout the ages made and preserved a culture and a way of life that is second to none. Some of us are very familiar with all that Iceland has produced, others know it in a fragmentary form, but nevertheless the name Iceland means to all of us something that is very near and dear. And as I was thinking of what to say tonight—for your chairman was, as chairmen often are, very accomodating when he asked me to speak and told me I was free to speak on any topic, a situation I always dread—I began to reflect on this strange love we all have for that far away island in the North Atlantic with the forbidding name of Iceland. It was not that most of the Icelanders who left Iceland to come here in the last quarter of the nineteenth century had left a country in which they had enjoyed a happy and prosperous existence to which they might look back with fond recollections of halcyon days. No, it was rather a grim life of grinding

proverty that they might remember, and most of them after a few years in this country found themselves materially far better off than they could ever have hoped to be in Iceland. Yet Iceland remained for them an enchanted place, a "draumaland" fairer than any they could think of, and the fondest wish of many was to be able at some time in the future to return to that land for a longer, shorter or permanent stay.

Then I began to ask myself, "Has this feeling, this love of Iceland always existed in its inhabitants? What about the Norwegians who first settled the country and the first few generations? Did they look back to Norway with longing and love?" No doubt some of them did. There are passages in the Sagas that indicate that some thought theirs to have been a hard lot in having to leave lands they knew so well for new and sometimes inhospitable regions, but the overwhelming impression one gets from reading the Sagas is that very early Iceland captured the affections of its settlers and although they still had regard for the former homeland this was very secondary and they had no desire to return thither. It is quite true, of course, that most young men wanted to go abroad, but the reason for this was that they desired to gain a reputation for valour, courage or for their poetic gifts by reciting their poems and eulogies in the presence of monarchs who would reward them richly. That having been accomplished it was their desire to return to Ice-

land and spend the rest of their days there.

We are all familiar with the story of Gunnar of Lithend who, when he was departing to spend three years in outlawry abroad, looked back at his estate and fields and found them so beautiful that he could not bear to leave and turned back even though the wisest man in Iceland had told him that if he submitted to the sentence he would have a long and happy life, and if not he would perish. We all remember that Grettir the Strong preferred to spend twenty years as an outlaw hunted from pillar to post and ever in danger of losing his life—preferred this to a glorious career which would have been open to him abroad. Indeed, it has truly been said that for an Icelander outlawry, even for three years, was the most cruel punishment he could undergo.

It is, of course, true that some Icelanders found it possible to leave Iceland never to return. Eric the Red led some hundreds of his countrymen to Greenland and founded there one of the most interesting and remarkable settlements in the history of the Scandinavians. But even the Greenlanders seem to have felt themselves to be still members of the Icelandic Commonwealth, and intercourse between the motherland and its colony was for centuries close. Again, one should remember that thousands of Icelanders travelled abroad during the Middle Ages to all parts of the world only to return to the fatherland frequently and usually ended their days there. It is fascinating reading, and one which would make a fascinating study, to trace the travels of Icelanders abroad. In the Middle Ages in other countries most people seldom travelled farther than a few miles from their native village. This can

hardly be said to be true of the Icelanders. Their love of their native land was not the result of ignorance of other countries. During the whole of the Middle Ages the Sagas, annals and other written records show that the Icelanders were great travellers. In the Saga period, as I have said before, it was the ambition of every young Icelander to go abroad and gain fame there. Scores of Icelanders were



Prof. Tryggyi Oleson

merchants and spent years of their early manhood in voyaging to Scandinavia, the British Isles and Western Europe. Even farmers owned ocean going vessels and made voyages abroad. Any man with poetic talent tried to reach the courts of Scandinavia and other countries. Adventurous spirits went as far abroad as Constantinople and spent some years serving as mercenaries in the Varangian guard of the Byzantine emperors. After the Christianisation of Iceland the desire to make pilgrimages to the various holy places of Christendom led to much further travel. Our information on some of these pilgrimages is fuller than that on the travels in the earlier

period, and some of them make interesting, if curious, reading. In the middle of the twelfth century Abbot Nicholas of Munkaþverá travelled through Europe all the way to the Holy Land and has left an account of the various lands and cities he passed through. In the thirteenth century Sturla Sigvatsson made a pilgrimage to Rome and there did public penance for his sins by visiting on his knees the principal churches of the Eternal City. And we are told that the Romans wept to see such a handsome and fine figure of a man doing penance so humbly. Even women sometimes made pilgrimages. Thus in 1406 Solveig, the wife of Björn Einarsson, accompanied her husband on one. They went, so the record reads, "first to Rome and thence to Venice where they boarded a ship and sailed over the sea to the Holy Land to the sepulchre of Our Lord and thence back to Venice; here the two parted, the wife going back to Norway and the husband west to Santiago de Compostella in Spain; there he lay sick for a fortnight; then he went through the whole of France into Flanders and across to England to Canterbury and finally from there to Norway."

Another interesting pilgrim was Bishop Árni Ólafsson of Skálholt (1413-1425), who may have been a Norwegian but more probably an Icelander who spent many years in Norway. Before he became bishop he travelled extensively and saw many things. In 1405 he was confessor to all Scandinavians visiting Aachen. There he saw a robe that had belonged to Our Blessed Lady, the swaddling clothes of Our Lord and the belt and mantle of St. John the Baptist. He also went to Africa where he is reported to have seen such interesting things as the hilt of the sword of Sigurður Fáfnisbani

which was ten feet in length, and a tooth of the great old hero Starkaður gamli which was as big as a man's hand. Árni came to his bishopric in Iceland in 1415 and remained there until 1419 and no doubt often recounted the above and other stories on festive occasions in Skálholt when the fine silver cup, Gestumblíður, which he had made, passed from lip til lip.

The foregoing may seem a bit of a digression from my theme, but I wished to emphasize by these few examples of hundreds that might be mentioned that acquaintance with foreign lands did not diminish the love of the Icelanders for what one Pope referred to as "insula maris in finibus mundi" (an island in the sea at the end of the world), and another as an island "in partibus remotis inter gentes quasi barbaros" (in remote regions with a people almost barbaric)—not even acquaintance with the sun drenched lands of Southern Europe. I am reminded here of the fine lines Davið Stefánsson wrote as he was leaving Italy:

Að baki mér signir sólin
hinn suðræna listagarð,
en nistandi norðan stormur
næðir um Brennerskarð.

Eg er á heimleið herra
og hræðist ei storm né ís.
Það er míni köllun að kveða
í klakans paradís.

There is another aspect that might well be considered here, i.e. the consciousness of the Icelanders in the Middle Ages of their national identity. Some seventy-five per cent of the settlers of Iceland came from Norway and it has sometimes been suggested that they considered themselves Norwegians. Apart from the fact that Norway did not exist as a unitary or na-

tional state at this time but was rather a collection of small kingdoms, which Harold the Fairhaired was in the process of bringing under his sway without making Norway a national state, it is clear from the Sagas that very shortly after the beginnings of settlement in Iceland its inhabitants began to think of themselves as a unified people, different or set apart from those of the other Scandinavian countries. There are numerous examples in the Sagas of Icelanders replying when abroad to the question, "Who are you?" with the words, "I am an Icelandic man," a thing they would hardly do if they considered themselves Norwegians. Again there are any number of instances which show that Icelanders felt a kinship or relationship with each other which set them apart from the inhabitants of the foreign country among whom they found themselves. Indeed, Norwegians and others were equally conscious of the national identity of the Icelanders for they made fun of them and gave them nicknames such as "mörlandi" (suetman).

The national consciousness of the Icelanders is, however, probably best seen in what happened so often when an Icelander got into trouble abroad. Then all differences were forgotten and all Icelanders who happened to be on the spot rallied round to save their fellow countryman. Numerous examples of such behaviour might be cited but one must suffice here, taken from the eleventh century. An Icelander came to Norway to avenge the death of his father who had been slain by one of the courtiers of King Magnus. He succeeded in carrying out his mission but was captured by the king's men as he fled from the scene of the slaying and was put in prison. The king was furious for the courtier had

been one of his favourites and all knew the Icelander would be put to death. At this time there were about three hundred Icelanders in Nidaros where these events took place. When they heard the news, one of them, Teitur, the son of Bishop Gizur, collected them together. They then bound themselves to save their compatriot or perish in the attempt. Marching in a body to the prison, they broke down the door, freed the prisoner and proceeded with him to the gathering where he was to be sentenced. The king and his entourage were greatly enraged at this high handed act of the Icelanders and threatened them in every way, but they presented such a solid front that the king finally, though much against his will, accepted money compensation for the slaying of his courtier. This trait of standing by a fellow countryman seems to have persisted to the present judging by the actions of the Icelanders in America on many well known occasions, just as the intense love of their native land has persisted among the Icelanders from the early Middle Ages to this day.

I will not attempt to assess the reason for this love of country and the solidarity of the Icelanders throughout the centuries. Many would no doubt be hard put to explain their own feelings in this matter. It is so much a part of them that they have never analysed it. Now I do not claim to have these feelings as fully developed as many of you. Yet despite the fact that I was born in this country, and thanks to my parents and my great aunt, I early acquired a devotion for Icelandic literature, primarily the Sagas and the religious poetry of the Middle Ages. And my devotion and admiration for this literature, yes, even for the dry inventories and official records of the **Diplomatarium Islandicum**, has grown

with the years rather than diminished. The Sagas are like a fresh breeze on a sultry day. As Sigurður Nordal says, nothing (I would add, in the realm of secular literature) can soothe a tired spirit better than their cool, limpid style, and I can think of no better reading. For many years my acquaintance with Iceland was chiefly through this literature, but in 1956 I had the opportunity of visiting Iceland for a period of ten days. Thanks to the kindness of Professor Bessason's predecessor in the Icelandic chair at the University of Manitoba, Professor Finnbogi Guðmundsson, I had a chance to see a good deal of the country, going by car from Reykjavík to Akureyri. I will not attempt to describe my feelings, but as we drove "heim að Hólum"

and I saw for the first time the beautiful setting of this old and noble place with the magnificent mountains towering above it, I seemed to understand as never before the old proverb: "Römm er sú taug er rekka dregur föðurtúna til," and after seeing what I saw of the country I was more than ever conscious of the marvellous beauty of Jónas Hallgrímsson's:

Þið þekkið fold með blíðri brá og
bláum tindi fjalla,
og svana hljómi, silungsá og sælu
blómi valla
og bröttum fossi, björtum sjá og
breiðum jökulskalla —
drjúpi' hana blessun drottins á um
daga heimsins alla.

The Mid-Winter Celebration

The Icelandic National League has its three day convention the last week in February each year and in conjunction with it three concerts are put on, one by the Chapter Frón, one by The Icelandic Canadian Club and the last one by the National League itself.

At the first concert there was a varied programme of music and reading of poetry, and an address by Prof. Haraldur Bessason, Head of the Dept. of Icelandic in the University of Manitoba, who spoke on his impressions of what is taking place among people of Icelandic descent here in the West.

The programme the second night consisted of three musical numbers and an address by Dr. B. N. Arnason, Deputy Minister of Co-operation and Co-operative Development in Saskatchewan. His address appears elsewhere in this issue.

The programme for the last evening was provided from Arborg where a concert group of young people has been developed, who sing, recite and read poetry, all in Icelandic. This group has already performed in Winnipeg and elsewhere with great credit to themselves and those in charge. Gunnar Sæmundsson brought in some members of the group who supplied the entertainment for the evening. He himself gave a brief address.

The Icelandic National League completed its conference the last evening. Mr. Guðmann Levy, who has been financial secretary of the League for twenty-five years, was presented with a life membership. Compliments were extended by the President, Dr. Beck, to Stefan Eymundsson, the delegate to the conference from Vancouver, for the excellent work the Chapter in Vancouver, and in particular he himself were doing.

The Voice of Iceland

The deepest thoughts and feelings of a nation can usually be gathered from the appeals and outbursts of its best poets. It is the poet who can express in the most forceful language his nation's glory and anguish, her dreams and frustrations, her hopes and disappointments. The nation's poets laureate, whether so designated or not, mirror the finest in her thinking.

In that category stands **Davíð Stefánsson** frá Fagráskógi, an acknowledged poet laureate of Iceland.

No attempt will be made to relate the story of this interpreter of the thoughts and feelings of the people of Iceland, born in Akureyri in the North of Iceland, whose first book of poems, "Svartar Fjaðrir", "Black Feathers", was published in 1919. Nor can what is written here be considered a review of his latest book of poems, published in 1956, which he calls "Ljóð frá liðnu sumri," "Last Summer's Poems." The year is factually not quite correct for one of the leading poems "Ávarp Fjallkonunnar" was composed for the June 1954, decenary of June 17, 1944, when Iceland once again acquired her independence and restored the ancient republic. But there are three poems in this last book of verse of Davíð Stefánsson which reveal some of the inmost thoughts of the nation and contain an amazingly succinct yet penetrating analysis of how some of the difficulties of life on earth should be met. The quotations selected tell the story. A letter to the writer, which accompanied the book, which the poet so kindly sent, is a necessary supplement to the graphic word picture in the last two quotations.

— — —

The first quotation is from the first poem in the book "Segið það móðir minni", "Tell My Mother". The second verse is selected:

Segið það móður minni
að mér sé hennar tunga
söngur, er létti lögum
lifsharm, snjóþunga.
Sá eg í orðum og anda
Ísland úr sæ rísa
og hlaut í völvunnar veðrum
vernd góðra dísa.

Tell my Mother stirring music
Is the language of her nation,
Refuge from the crushing snowdrifts,
Rest from years of tribulation.
Through her voice and in its message,
Saw I Iceland rise in glory
From the storming furies shelter,
Guardian fairies in her story.

Íslenzk tunga! Those two words have a wealth of meaning which no comparable words in English can convey. "In her language is the nation's greatest wealth and in a way her only wealth," says Dr. Alexander Jóhannesson, former Rector of the University of Iceland. It can be truly said that the language is the life blood of the nation. But it is even more than that. It is a heritage of inestimable literary and philological value to the Nordic group of nations, and, though less directly, to the whole Indo-European family of nations. This wider aspect of the heritage of language of the Icelanders, which has been a vital force in building the distinctive characteristics of the nation, creates a duty which extends beyond the shores of Iceland. On this point, as the last two quota-

tions reveal, Davíð Stefánsson's mind is very clear.

— — —

The second selection is from Group II in the "Message from the Maid of the Mountains", written for the decennary of June 17, 1944.

Stundum getur þyngsta þraut
þjóðum markað sigurbraut,
Vafið saman veika þætti,
valdið nýjum aldarhætti,
þannig vekja neyð og náð
nýja krafta, dýpri ráð.

Fortune ill and tribulation
May to victory lead a nation,
Reinforce a weakening trait,
Inspire a new, a nobler way.
Faith gives birth in darkest hour
To wiser plans, enduring power.

This verse expresses in words, as if hewn into granite, an underlying motif in some of Iceland's most stimulating poetry, which in turn rests upon the stern realities of life on that island far out in the North Atlantic.

Davíð Stefánsson has, in this one verse, provided a stimulating and encouraging example to the freedom loving nations of the world, who, almost continuously since 1914, have been passing through a crucible in defence of their freedom. They, too, have had their darkest hours and to them faith has provided strength and given birth to wiser plans. So also, it may be said, the more unfortunate nations, who have already lost their freedom, may need something to reinforce what may be faltering, and help maintain a spark of hope.

— — —

The attitude of mind of the people of Iceland, in relation to their heritage, and their duty towards it, even if they reside in other lands, can be seen per-

haps indirectly, but yet very unmistakably from a couplet in Group IV of the "Message from the Maid of the Mountains", and in the fifth stanza of a poem which the author entitles "Heim", "Home".

The couplet is as follows:

Lítil reyndust guma geð,
sem gerðust erlend konungspeð.

He, who did to aliens fawn
Soon became a lowly pawn.

The poem "Heim", which in content might very well be called "Mother Iceland", expresses the author's disappointment in the attitude that some individuals, on emigrating from Iceland, have taken in the foreign lands they have chosen. Verse V is selected:

Veit eg, Ísland, að þú sérð
undarlega menn á ferð.
Fáum veitti frið né hróður
fánýtt hjal um aðra móður.
Sumir gleymdu sögu þinni
söngnum, tungu, ættarskrá,
urðu alltaf minni og minni —
en máttur þinn gat frelsað þá,
birt þeim gömul bernskukynni,
blásið af þeim göturykið.
Til að gleima gleymsku sinni
geipa þeir og láta mikið.

Strangest men dost thou behold,
Roaming over a foreign fold;
In vaunts of other lands did find
Triumph none, nor peace of mind.
Some forgot their country's story,
Language, heritage and glory;
Remembered not their boyhood course,
That thy power could reinforce
Minds in vision ever shrinking,
Clear them of their woolly thinking;
Yet all memory to becloud,
They brag and bluster, strut about.

In order to fully understand the thoughts that the poet sought to convey in the couplet and verse just quoted, it is necessary to add, as a footnote an extract from the letter Davíð Stefánsson wrote to the writer after he had glanced over his book "The Saskatchewan Icelanders, a Strand of the Canadian Fabric".

"The book is a work of merit, imparting valuable information, but it is saddening to read the list of the fallen, who, if one judge by the photographs, were all most promising. On the other hand, it gladdens my heart that Icelanders of the West vigorously strive to secure the cultural links between Canada and Iceland; such worthy effort will be accorded merited recognition here. Even though the number of those in the West who speak Icelandic is bound to decrease in generations to come, the spirit and feelings of heart in all of us can be maintained unshaken, if encouraged by the wisest on both sides of the ocean."

The couplet and the verse from "Heim" must be read in the perspective of what is revealed in the letter. Davíð Stefánsson keenly felt the loss as he looked into the faces of those fine young men who had fallen in the war. True, they were citizens of another land, and some may not have been able to speak a word of Icelandic, but that was, in this instance, of secondary importance. The noble service they voluntarily offered satisfied

the poet that the heritage handed to them by their fathers, had not been cast aside. In the supreme sacrifice these young men made, the poet could see the ancient love of freedom, which he so often has entwined into his gems of poetry. If that quality was deep-rooted in them so early in life many other virtues would have sprung from it if they had been spared.

That appreciation in the heart of Davíð Stefánsson extends further; it extends to all Canadians of Icelandic descent who, in contributing to Canadian citizenship, utilize rather than discard their heritage and seek to strengthen cultural links between Canada and Iceland. This applies equally to Americans of Icelandic stock.

The man whom the poet denounces and perhaps despises is the one who on leaving Iceland for some foreign land, tries to forget or shed what he brought with him, tries to be something which he isn't, and crawls in order to seek favours from someone who may appear to have climbed high in the accepted order of society but whose title to preferment may not bear analysis.

Davíð Stefánsson, frá Fagraskógi is the voice of Iceland. It can be truly said that in his penetrating thoughts, carved into verses of superb poetry, he has brought out in bold relief and beautiful colors, the best thinking of that other mother country of ours.

We of the West are grateful.

W. J. Lindal



Federation of Ethnic Press of Canada Formed



Walter J. Lindal

At a two day conference held in Ottawa, March 8-9, of the ethnic press editors and publishers of Canada, a federation was formed called the Canada Ethnic Press Federation. It comprises about 75 publications from Montreal to Vancouver with a total circulation of over 300,000. A constitution was adopted which includes the following:

Article II, Policy:

The Federation is non-political and non-partisan, except in its advocacy of democracy and its opposition to all totalitarian forms of government.

Article IV, Objects and Purposes

4. To foster a greater appreciation of the debt Canadian arts, sciences, economy and thinking owe to the ethnic communities and to promote a clearer understanding of the ethnic press as a platform for the expression of authentic and basic Canadian ideals.

The Chairman of the Editorial Board of The Icelandic Canadian, Judge W. J. Lindal, was unanimously elected President of the new organization. Back in 1942 he formed the Canada Press Club of Winnipeg and in 1949 The Canadian Ethnic Press Club of Toronto was formed, modelled upon the one in Winnipeg. The purpose of the new federation is to bring together these clubs and all ethnic publications, except communist, from coast to coast.

The Honorary President of the Federation is the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration in the Canadian government Hon. E. Davie Fulton, addressed the delegates, about 40 in number, at a luncheon at which he emphasized the importance of the ethnic press in the moulding of a sound and rich Canadianism.

The two vice-presidents of the Federation are Bruno Tenhunen, publisher of a Finnish paper in Toronto, and Fred Weisman, publisher of a Dutch paper in Montreal. The Secretary is M. H. Hykaway, editor of a Ukrainian paper, The Canadian Farmer, in Winnipeg. The chairman of an administration committee is Frank Glugowski of Toronto, publisher of a Polish paper.

At the luncheon in Toronto, the President of the new organization, Judge Lindal, was presented with a travelling brief case in recognition, as stated by Charles E. Dojack of Winnipeg, who made the presentation, and Rabbi Solomon Frank of Montreal, of "his leadership and vision in the Federation's organization".

For the time being Winnipeg will be the headquarters of the Federation.

—T.O.S. Thorsteinson

Re-Forestation of Iceland

by S. E. BJÖRNSSON



Grove of tall blue spruce trees in Hallormsstaðir, Iceland

The term re-forestation points to the fact that Iceland at one time was covered with forests. Old historical records, written shortly after 1100 A.D. tell us that Iceland was covered with forests from coast to mountainside when the first settlers arrived. This may be an exaggeration, but recent investigations have corroborated the validity of this statement. Three species of birch, three of willow, mountain ash and dwarf juniper, grew wild in Iceland at the time of the settlement, in 874 A.D. Quaking aspen has also been found in two places.

The seeds of these species can be carried for a long distance either by strong winds or by birds, and it is presumed that the seeds of these trees were brought from Norway to Iceland in this manner.

Several reasons are given for the virtual extermination of the native forests of Iceland. The original forests were the main source of fuel and building material and natural growth did not replenish this depletion. Sheep and cattle were allowed to shift for themselves as fodder was limited. The result was that birch saplings were destroyed. Further causes of forest destruction were soil erosion by wind and floods.

For many centuries no attempt was made to reforest Iceland. Isolation of the island was one factor; the loss of the country's independence was another. Other misfortunes, which the people had to suffer, are well known. However, about 200 years ago some minor experiments were made in importing several species of coniferous

seeds. These were planted but with limited success. Although these early attempts were not entirely successful they indicate that there was an awareness that reforestration was most desirable. These experiments revived at intervals up to the beginning of the present century, when a few leaders made a united effort to organize tree planting on a larger scale than ever attempted before.

The present organized program of reforestration had its beginning on a permanent basis in 1899. At that time knowledge in Iceland was limited in these matters and there was a lack of experience. As a result many of the early experiments were unsuccessful. During the years 1899-1913 a substantial quantity of seed and thousands of saplings were imported from different countries and were planted principally at Akureyri and Hallormsstað. Then followed a period of 20 years when no further efforts were made.

In 1933 and 1936 tree planting and seeding was done on a large scale. Since that time various tree and shrub species have been imported from the Northern part of Alaska, Norway and Russia, and in spite of the fact that these latest experiments have not been carried out for a sufficient period of time, it has become quite clear that these species have given far better results than any others tried before.

Hákon Bjarnason, the director of reforestration, reports that all seeds and saplings imported in the period 1899-1913 came from places with a milder climate than Iceland enjoys, to which he attributes its limited success. Therefore, in recent years great emphasis has been laid on obtaining seeds from northerly countries, such as Alaska, the Canadian Rockies and Siberia. It is of interest to note that *Pinus Contorta Douglas* seed from

Canada, somewhere from the middle of British Columbia, planted in 1938 thrives well at Hallormsstað. (Hákon Bjarnason: Brief on Reforestation of Iceland).

Today, the National Reforestation Association of Iceland is a big enterprise comprising 30 operating branches. The Annual Convention is usually held in June at Thingvellir with delegates attending from all branches. There is no enterprise in Iceland that has enjoyed such unanimous support both from the government and individual citizens. In recent years the government grant to the various branches has been very substantial, now totalling 400,000 krónur annually. The annual outlay for the project runs into hundreds of thousands of krónur with steadily increasing demands for funds. The total government grant for reforestation in 1955 was 2,151,317 kr. and from year to year this grant is increased according to needs. Besides this there are other sources of revenue, which can not be enumerated here.

The National Reforestation Association has been very fortunate indeed in its choice of leadership. Many of those on the executive committee are experienced horticulturists. Hákon Bjarnason, who has been the government director of forestry for many years, is justly admired by every one for his effective and able leadership. Another name comes to mind, that of Walty Stefánsson, editor of the *Morgunblað*, who for many years has been the most enthusiastic and able president of The Iceland Forest Service Association. His continuous work as organizer, teacher and a leader for the movement through the years has been of inestimable value. Besides those mentioned there are many influential men and women, who have been active workers for the Association for many

years and who indeed deserve much credit for work well done.

The above observations give some idea of the magnitude of the work that is being carried on in reforestation by the people of Iceland. This year a resolution was passed at a convention held at Egilsstaðir requesting increased aid from the government to ensure the planting of at least a million trees annually.

The will to work is general and both young and old are seen working at the reforestation projects and in the nurseries which have been established in different parts of the island. There are four big nurseries and several smaller ones. The main ones are at Fossvogi, close to Reykjavík, at Tumastaðir in Fljótshlíð, Vöglum in Fnjóskadal and at Hallormsstaða. The last named is the oldest and there the biggest trees in the country are found. They are mostly evergreens of different varieties and from different localities. Some Siberian Spruce was planted there in 1922 and many of those are now 32 to 35 feet in height. There is blue spruce (Colorado) planted in 1905-6 of about the same height and larger in circumference. There are also red spruce trees, 19 in number, with an average height of 15 feet. These trees were planted during the years 1905-1909.

The smaller nurseries, which are also important, are situated at Akureyri, Laugarbrekku in Skagafirði, and in Norðtungu. In 1954 all the nurseries combined produced one million plants and it is estimated that two million plants will soon be available for annual distribution and replanting.

While reforestation in Iceland is still in its infancy, it is indeed a healthy infant and shows great promise of rapid development in years to come. The National Reforestation As-

sociation was organized in 1930, at the time when Iceland was celebrating its 1000th anniversary of Althing. This marks a new era for independence of thought and action. The country itself, which had withstood so many adversities through the centuries, had to be restored to its original beauty. All hands were ready for the work and leadership was not lacking and today the result is most gratifying.

It is regrettable that people of Icelandic extraction here in North America have not acquainted themselves with this movement of reforestation in Iceland. However, even before 1930, reforestation of Iceland was advocated by a Canadian Icelander, Björn Magnússon of Keewatin, Ontario. Between 1928-30 he had collected a substantial quantity of seed, Sitka Spruce and Mountain spruce from Alaska, White spruce from Northern Canada, Douglas spruce and contorta pine from British Columbia and some cedar seed from North Dakota. This seed he mailed to Iceland where it was planted in nurseries in 1931, and in 1933 the saplings were replanted in many places where they have thrived well. Mr. Magnússon was evidently an enthusiastic pioneer in this field, and his pioneering work has fittingly received some recognition in Iceland. The spirit promoting deeds of this kind which was rooted in love of his native country is admirable and should be honored for its originality and simplicity of purpose.

Another twenty years passed by and nothing was done in Canada to follow up Mr. Magnússon's pioneering work. However, at the Annual Convention of the Icelandic National League in 1951, Mrs. S. E. Björnson brought up anew the matter of reforestation in Iceland. Her effort received good support from the delegates and the result was,

that 5000 krónur was voted to establish a plot for reforestation somewhere in Iceland. The location selected is at Thingvellir and consists of about 2½ acres, with a possible increase to 25 acres. It is situated on a slope close to Hrafnagjá beside the old road in a sheltered and secluded spot. Considerable work has already been done and the trees are progressing well with more saplings being planted from year to year.

In recent years there has been evidence of increased interest in this project amongst Icelandic Canadians. At least two branches of the Icelandic National League have become members of the "Skógræktafélag", those at Lundar and Gimli in Manitoba. Furthermore, some individuals have become members of the organization

in Iceland, and there have been some cash contributions from the West as well. Last summer the Iceland Forest Service received a one hundred dollar gift from Mrs. Mary Sturmer of Minneapolis, Minn., a gift which will pay for 3000 plants in the Vestur-Íslendinga Skógur at Thingvellir.

To-day the Icelandic National League has a standing committee working on this project. Serving on this committee are Mrs. S. E. Björnson, Winnipeg, Haraldur Bessason, professor of Icelandic at the University of Manitoba, and Rev. Olafur Skulason of Mountain, N. D. Their work is chiefly advisory, but they have been instrumental in securing additional seed and will be sending more from time to time.



THE COVER VERSE

Elsewhere in this issue an effort is made to analyze the point of view taken by a poet in Iceland, on Icelanders who have emigrated to other lands and their descendants in the new homeland. It is therefore appropriate that the cover verse should be selected from the pen of a poet who did migrate from Iceland and has lived in Canada over half a century. The poet selected is Gísli Jónsson, born in Iceland in 1876, who arrived in Canada in 1903, and, exactly a quarter of a century later, composed the poem from which the cover verse is taken: "Minni Canada", A Toast to Canada.

If, after only a quarter of a century,

the foster land "víkkar hugarheim", widens a world of dreams, one might think that the integration was too rapid. But not so. Gísli Jónsson, now a resident of Canada for 55 years, has for the last eighteen years been editor of "Tímarit", an annual in Icelandic, of a high standard, published in Winnipeg by the Icelandic National League. Davíð Stefánsson and Gísli Jónsson have much in common.

The translator, Dr. Watson Kirkconnell, needs no introduction to the readers of The Icelandic Canadian. The translation and the original follow:

Toast to Canada

Land with forests like the ocean, shoreless prairies, giant hills,—
Every prince of song has praised thee, high in verse that warms and thrills.
Therefore I, who lack their stature, thinking on their towering state,
Stammer and hesitate.

Fain would I, throughout the nation, vaunt thy glory in my song,
But oblations of thanksgiving flow more freely from my tongue:
After five and twenty summers, foster-love thou didst impart
Throbs in my inmost heart.

On your breast our sires found shelter, friends and babes that hither trod;
Sea-deep tears of joy and sorrow sank into thy kindly sod.
Up from mists of human life, the tree of fair remembrance grew—
A sacred sign and true.

Land thou art of youth and power; winds that may the freeman rear
Blow from off thy far-flung prairies, potent with the growing year;
With thy sweep of boundless champaign, where the far horizon gleams,
Widens a world of dreams.

All earth's races live as one in thy domain through peaceful days,
Fused in unity of spirit in the fervor of thy praise.
Built on concord, see a nation, as the ages run, arise,
Valiant, and skilled, and wise.

Land of beauty, land of sunshine, land by birth of children blest,
Laud and honour shall extol thee from remotest east and west;
While our hearts, outstripping metre, herald eminence for thee
Farther than the eye can see.

Minni Kanada

Land með arma ægiviða, undra-sléttur, hrikafjöll –
til þín hafa kveðið kvaði kraftaskáldin öll.
Því er mér, sem minstur allra mærðar timbur hjó,
bæði um og ó.

Feginn vildi eg ljóði leta loftstír þinn um alla jörð;
get þó engan beina boðið betri en þakkargjörð:
Eftir fjórðungsaldar fóstur ást er runnin hrein
mér í merg og bein.

Vorra feðra, frænda og barna felur þú í skauti hold;
hafsdýpt sælu og sorgar tára sökk í þína mold.
Upp hjá móðu mannlífs spretta minninganna tré –
heilög hjartans vé.

Þú ert hauður æsku or orku; óskabyr hins frjálsa manns
blæs frá þínum viða vangi – veldi gróandans!
Viðsýn útsýn lands og lagar luktan opnar geim –
víkkar hugarheim.

Allar þjóðir allrar jarðar eiga grið á þinni slóð;
niðjar þeirra í cining andans eina kynda glóð.
Af þeim grunni er aldir renna, undra kynstofn rís –
hraustur, hagur, vís.

Landið fagra, sólskins sæla, sona vorra og dætra storð,
þinn skal hróður heimi sunginn, hróss og frægðar orð –
meðan orð er efni hærra, andinn viðar fer
en vort auga sér!

The Music Selection



Mrs. Elma Gislason

The music selection for this issue was composed by Mrs. Elma Gislason. This song received the second prize in the Winnipeg Music Festival of 1957.

Mrs. Gislason graduated from the Toronto Conservatory of Music in 1933. Her teacher was S. K. Hall, Bac. Mus.

For five years she has been choir leader and soloist in the Unitarian Church, cor. Banning and Sargent in Winnipeg. At present she is leader of the nurses' Ladies Choir in St. Boniface Hospital.

Elma Gislason is a member of the Philharmonic Choir and has sung some of the solos in Handels' Oratorio, "The Messiah". She has had several

years experience in teaching piano and voice culture. Her former teacher reports that Mrs. Gislason has to her credit a number of fine musical compositions, still in manuscript form.

The author of the poem is that versatile Professor of languages, author and reviewer, Dr. Richard Beck, who is well known to the readers of this magazine. He writes poetry in both English and Icelandic. In 1948 he published a booklet of poems in English which he entitled "Sheaves of Verses". In 1929, he published a book of poems in Icelandic under the title "Ljóðmál".

The translator of the poem is the composer of the music herself. The many people who have heard Mrs. Gislason sing anxiously await her singing this beautiful song which an eminent music critic has described as very good.

By way of a footnote it might be added that "Áróra", which appeared in the December, 1957, issue of this magazine, was sung in public for the first time by an octette under the direction of Mrs. Gislason at the "Frón" concert held on February 24,—the first of the three concerts staged in connection with the three day convention of The Icelandic National League. The song was very much appreciated by the audience and was repeated as an encore. The author of the poem, Guttormur J. Guttormsson, who was present, was applauded for the beautiful poem.

Lightly on Wings Ascending

Poem by DR. RICHARD BECK

ELMA GISLASON A.T.C.M.

4

b.

cresc.

mb.

Light- ly on wings as - cend - ing, My soul with the blue of heav - en,

b.

mf

Basks in the glow of spring - time, Songs o'er the meadows lilt - ing, My

3

Handwritten musical score for 'The Icelandic Canadian' featuring four systems of music with lyrics. The score is in common time and includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *p*, and *Cres.*

System 1: *f*
lyrics: heart is a-glow with rapt - ure, Swans in the sun - - - light
Cres.

System 2: *p*
lyrics: glean - - - ing.

System 3: *f*
lyrics: Come to me dreams of childhood as life from the clod is

System 4: *p*
lyrics: spring - - ing,

LIGHTLY ON WINGS ASCENDING

Lightly on wings ascending,
My soul with the blue of heaven,
Basks in the glow of springtime.

Songs o'er the meadows li'ting,
My heart is aglow with rapture,
Swans in the sunlight gleaming.

Come to me dreams of childhood
As life from the clod is springing,
Wafted on scent of roses.

Lightly on wings ascending,
My soul mid this vernal splendor
Bursts forth in glory highest!

SÁL MINNI VAXA VÆNGIR

Sál minni vaxa vængir,
er vorar og loftin blána;
fannir í huga hlána.

Hitnar mér hjarta í barmi,
er hvítir við sólu ljóma
svanir og söngvar hljóma.

Yngjast mér æskudraumar
við upprisu lífs úr dauða;
brosir mér rósin rauða.

Sál minni vaxa vængir
með vori og flugið hækkar;
útsýni andans stækkar.

They Served Well

Although this magazine does not publish obituaries, still it would not be completely carrying out its policy of recording from time to time the achievements of Canadians and Americans of Icelandic descent who have won distinction for themselves and their group, if names were left out just because the grim reaper had taken his toll before the record was completed.

Two in that category are mentioned this time: one who reached the allotted three score and ten and by that time had won a name for himself in his profession and as a citizen; the other a brilliant young woman who passed away just when those who knew her or had read some of her newspaper columns, were just beginning to realize what a diversified career awaited her if she had been spared.

H. J. H. PALMASON, C.A.

Hannes John Harald Palmason was born in Parry Sound, Ontario, in 1887. At the age of 4 he was adopted by John and Ingibjorg Palmason of Keewatin, Ontario. His widowed mother, Gudrun Harald, brought up his two year older sister, Freda.

Hannes came to Winnipeg in 1904. He had a bent for mathematics and in course of time obtained a degree in Chartered Accountancy from the University of Saskatchewan. For a few years he did accountancy work in Moose Jaw, and then came back to Winnipeg and worked for a number of years for Ronald Griggs & Co., a well known firm of Chartered Accountants.

As far as is known, Hannes Palma-

son was the first Icelander in Canada to obtain a degree in chartered accountancy. Coupled with his bent to mathematics Hannes possessed another quality in rich measure, a quality equally necessary for a man who is constantly delving into the books and business transactions of others. He was scrupulously honest, and no accounts would receive his certificate unless they were correct and every item of doubt thoroughly explained to his satisfaction.

For some years Hannes was comptroller in Winnipeg, for Marshall Wells of Canada Ltd., one of Canada's largest hardware corporations.

Hannes Palmason felt that he should make a contribution to Canada's war effort in World War II, and for some time he served in Ottawa and Halifax in the Civilian and Personnel Division of the Navy. After the war he worked for War Assets and when that assignment was completed he opened an office of his own in Winnipeg, which he operated until in 1956 when he retired owing to ill health. He died January 3, 1958.

Hannes Palmason was a member of the First Lutheran Church and sang in the choir for a number of years. One of his favorite pastimes was Contract Bridge. He was a member of the Icelandic Team of eight who won the Tribune Trophy.

His wife Florence, the former Florence Einarson, is at present with their son, John Harold in Montreal, a graduate from the University of Manitoba in Civil Engineering. Another son, Einar Henry, graduated in Electrical Engineering, also from the

U. of M. A daughter, Carol Joy, is also a graduate from the U. of M. in Home Economics. She is married to A. F. Kristjansson, who practises law in Winnipeg.

Freida Harald, Hannes' sister is a gold medallist in modern languages from the U. of M. and for many years was one of the librarians in the Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, N. H. One of her hobbies has been to teach Icelandic, and sometimes she has taught Italian.

Hannes Palmason was always interested in the Icelandic Canadian Club and this magazine, and for many years audited the accounts—without remuneration.

Of Hannes Palmason it can be truly said that he made his full contribution to that splendid record of good citizenship which others speak of in referring to the Icelandic group in this country.

CAROL LEE

Carol, a daughter of Sigrun Hjalmarson (nee Frederickson) and the late Bjorn Hjalmarson, the first Icelandic School Inspector in Canada, died in Regina on September 3, 1957, only thirty-six years old. She married H. L. Lee, commonly known as Tim, private secretary to Premier T. C. Douglas of Saskatchewan, and Clerk of the Executive Council. They had two boys, Eric Bjorn and Shannon, who were ten and nine years old when their mother passed away. These two very promising boys had just reached the age when their mother would have been able to devote even more time to public service than she had in the past. But that was not to be.

Carol Lee was a woman with exceptional gifts. In her were combined the qualities of the artist, inherited from her mother, a very talented pianist,

and the qualities of the humanitarian with which her father, Bjorn Hjalmarson, was so richly endowed. It was but inevitable that Carol would be attracted to the co-operative movement in Saskatchewan and would not find it difficult to express in pleasing manner her views on the human side of life. Carol was a regular contributor of articles in the press of Saskatchewan, and wrote a column in *The Commonwealth* under the heading *The Nation*. One column starts as follows:

"Twenty-five years ago Regina was a little island surrounded by hundreds of miles of prairie sea. A foreigner was a person who had come from Europe up to thirty years before, who had an accent or a non-Anglo Saxon name.

Today the island is considerably larger and to its ports of call come strangers from many lands bringing with them the gifts of those far-off places, their customs and their cultural heritage; the spice of new attitudes relieving the somewhat sombre mid-western drabness."

Only a year before she died Mrs. Lee was elected to the Regina School Board. The following is part of a newspaper report on her election:

"With a background of community service extending over a number of years, Mrs. Lee will bring to her new duties on the public school board a wealth of experience which should be valuable in the administration of school affairs for the next two years.

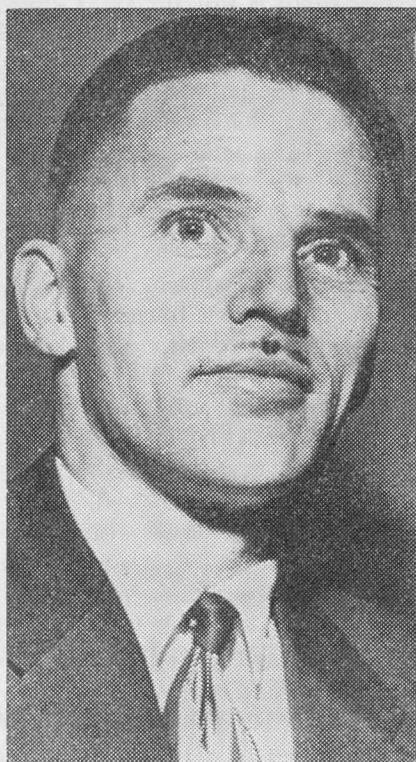
"With two small children Mrs. Lee's main interest during the past few years have lain with the welfare of the very young. . . .

"An active Home and School club member at Benson School, she served on the executive for several years."

Carol Lee would have gone far in public service if she had not been called.

W. J. L.

EVEN BUGS HAVE CHOOSY TASTES



Prof. A. J. Thorsteinson

Research carried on over a period of 12 years by Dr. A. J. Thorsteinson, head of the department of entomology, University of Manitoba, is eloquently described by staff writer Ron Kinney in an article appearing in the January 4th, 1958 edition of the Winnipeg Tribune.

Titled "Even Bugs Have Choosy Tastes," the article reads as follows:

Ever heard of a grasshopper who won't even look at crops and vegetables, and eats only weeds? Or a potato beetle that doesn't like potato leaves?

There are the odd misfits who have inherited the wrong taste senses, but

scientists right here in Manitoba are working on a unique project that someday might make this the rule, rather than the exception.

It's pretty well impossible to exterminate every grasshopper, potato bug, sweet clover weevil and so on in the world, so, taking a page from the old philosopher who said "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em," scientists at the University of Manitoba's agriculture department of entomology are willing to let the critters live—but at man's terms.

Change the Plant

The trick is not to change the insects' tastes, but rather to make their favorite plant unpalatable to them, yet perhaps even more palatable to humans and livestock.

Professor A. J. Thorsteinson and his colleagues, assisted by several advanced students, have embarked on the ambitious project of trying to discover exactly what it is in a certain plant that makes it especially tasty to a particular insect.

It is a known fact, Dr. Thorsteinson points out, that certain insects have such highly selective tastes that they will eat only one particular family of plants, scorning all others unless they are starving. A good example is the potato bug.

Still other insects, such as the grasshopper, seem to find taste and nourishment from a great number of plants.

Unique Experiment

The work, the only inquiry into the tastes of plant-eating insects being

carried on anywhere, is still only half through; there is much that is yet not known.

But they have found that most insects like sugars; that some reject an overly-sweet diet; and, most important of all, that each plant contains some chemical that attracts certain insects above all others, yet which other bugs find distasteful.

The idea is a brainchild of Dr. Thorsteinson, who has been carrying on experiments in this line for 12 years. However it is during the last three years only that enough equipment, money, and help has been made available to carry the research forward at any standard clip.

The idea occurred to the professor one day when, while serving as a graduate assistant, he noticed an alfalfa plant and a sweet clover growing side by side. The sweet clover was severely damaged by weevils, but the alfalfa was untouched.

This struck the observant young man as meaningful, and he resolved to find out why the insect preferred the clover. He's been at it ever since.

Rear The Bugs

The first stage is to rear the bugs. This is done in artificial surroundings, in incubators and cages with carefully controlled atmospheres and environment.

Once the insects are ready, "artificial leaves" — razor-thin discs cut from the pith of the Japanese alder, are soaked in certain solutions and, in controlled experiments, fed to the bugs.

By varying the mixture in the discs as to sugar content, and other chemicals, it is possible to discover which solution most closely resembles the chemical make-up of the actual leaf usually preferred by a certain insect.

Although the results are neither complete nor conclusive as yet, it would appear that the potato bug, for example, likes potato leaves, not only because there is just the right amount of sugar present, but because of a chemical substance, which, while it may not itself be too palatable to the beetle, makes other substances in the leaf extremely tasty to the little fellow.

Science Job

When the exact chemical composition of this mysterious substance is known, it will then be possible to try and develop a potato which either has leaves devoid of this nutrient, or which contains a substance that will counteract it. This is a job for the plant science department.

If the knowledge derived from the experiments now being carried out can be put to use to get a new potato leaf, the beetles will have a decision to make; they will either die off altogether, or, by heredity, gradually adjust their taste to something else. This, of course, is speculation, but it could happen.

What about the insects themselves?

"It's surprising", Dr. Thorsteinson says, "how much the insect world is like our own. They, too, have all five senses we have, some more acute, others much less highly developed."

During his experiments, many interesting facts have been forthcoming. There is a moth, for example, that can actually taste with its feet. Another can see ultraviolet light; another can hear sounds too high-pitched for the human ear.

Bugs Can Think

Bugs can, in their own way, think. The professor doesn't think their reactions are entirely reflex—that they

act and behave purely by instinct and basic motives.

Some insects can be taught to react to stimuli in exactly the same way as animals. They develop what is called a "conditioned reaction". In other words, by giving them a certain food, and then distressing them immediately, they refuse to eat this food.

They never "remember" for very long, but the fact that they can "learn", say the experts, means that their brain

is more highly developed than was previously thought. Although not a new discovery, it has a bearing on the taste-project.

But the main research of the project—to find out what the bugs like and why—could have far-reaching effects on agriculture and the world in general. It's a first for Manitoba, and when the results are finally known and tested, science may have a vital new weapon in its never-ending fight against insect pests.

BOOK REVIEW

JÓN PORLÁKSSON

Icelandic Translator of Pope and Milton
by RICHARD BECK

Studia Islandica 16 —
H. F. Leifur, Reykjavík, 1957

This is a "condensed and revised" version of a study based on Dr. Beck's dissertation from a Dr. of Philosophy degree at Cornell University in 1926. Bearing that in mind it is quite remarkable that he should have been able to use such an easy-flowing, simple and pleasing style.

One cannot help but feel tempted to delve into the realms of Jón Þorláksson's poetry and translations as the author relates the efforts of Rev. Jón Þorláksson "in the face of a deplorable state of want" and the feeling of humiliation which it must have produced in his mind. Dr. Beck points out that, in spite of this severe handicap, the translator's original works, more often than not, depict optimism and nobility in outlook.

As is so often the case, it remained for Jón Þorláksson to receive some of

his highest praise from foreigners and strangers. However he was called by some of his contemporaries "The Great Icelandic Milton", and often referred to as the "National poet of Iceland."

The author refers to the translator as a "voluminous writer with strong popular appeal whose works allude to Eddic and Skaldic poems", and are "rich in humor which frequently becomes bitter satire." It remained largely for the later generations fully to appreciate the value of his unusual and magnificent contribution to the literature of his country.

His poems are overshadowed by his translations wherein he displays a remarkable ability to "retain original thought, spirit and style."

In addition to excellent evaluations of Jón Þorláksson's translations, Dr. Beck gives some precise advice on translating in general. Praise is due the author for his success in awakening in the reader a deep desire to know first hand the work of this "mediator between two cultures."

A. Isfeld

The Need for Co-operation with Under-Developed Countries

Continued from Page 11

bers of these co-operatives to learn to read and write. Similar problems are experienced in other Far Eastern countries and illustrate some of the difficulties in introducing the methods of modern industrial society. We have to bear these problems in mind when we are asked for advice as to how the extension methods we use in co-operative or other fields can be applied to conditions prevailing in countries where educational standards are so low.

In our democratic Western society, we take it for granted that the health of our political democracy and of our complex economy depends on the initiative of the individual and his willingness to play his part, either on his own account in business or industry, or in co-operation with others in various forms of group action, whether at the local or community level, or in provincial or federal fields. It is quite another matter to persuade groups of illiterate Indian or Pakistani peasants or Indonesian fishermen that they can do something to help themselves either by group action on a co-operative basis or as individuals. They have been ground down by centuries of feudalism or other forces in their society which kept them in ignorance and living at a starvation level. To encourage or teach these people methods whereby they can improve their lot by some of the organizational, educational, and technological methods of Western society needs time, tact, patience, hard work and gifted and unselfish leadership. Yet it must be done. The teeming millions of the under-developed countries are becoming aware of the technological advances and the higher living standards of the West and they

want to adapt these to their own needs. Illiterate and backward they may be, but in many countries they are the products of a civilization and culture much older than our own. They have the desire and ability to learn, and if we of the West don't assist them, they will look elsewhere for such assistance.

I have mentioned assistance which we can give to these countries by training their technicians in the use of co-operative methods in the field of production, marketing and credit. The fact that over seventy per cent of India's population depends on agriculture for a living serves to illustrate the extreme necessity for the people to do everything they can to help themselves by using co-operative methods to increase their food production. But the development of irrigation works, power plants, and the development of natural resources needs capital on a large scale. Many economists point out that one of the characteristics of the modern age is a world shortage of capital. We need hardly be reminded of the extent to which our Canadian economic development in recent years has depended on capital from the United States. Yet a country like ours is in a favoured position to compete for the world's reservoir of capital as compared with countries like those of the Indian sub-continent. But the capital requirements of the under-developed countries are relatively much greater than ours. In the present stage of crisis and ferment in many of these countries, co-operative action on a vast scale between these countries and those of the advanced countries aided by agencies, such as the World Bank, may be necessary to meet this need for large amounts of capital. Con-

sidering the stakes involved, Canada must be prepared to take its part.

We must also remember that due to the overwhelming nature of the problems in many under-developed countries it seems essential for the state to assume a major responsibility for any extensive program of industrialization and of other measures designed to improve the welfare of the people. In Canada, we take it for granted that our economic society is a mixture of private enterprise, co-operative enterprise and state enterprise. Apart from those sectors of our economy where services seem to be at their best as a natural monopoly and therefore should be under the control of the state, we depend on the freedom of choice of individuals as to how they provide themselves with the services they need. It is different in the under-developed countries, especially of South-East Asia. The industrial revolution passed them by. They are now trying to solve the problem of hunger, disease, lack of education lack of industrial know-how, and lack of capital in as short a time as possible. There are many hundred millions of people involved. There are competing ideologies. They are trying to industrialize by using Western methods. They need the risk capital which the West can provide. Yet, because of their conditions, their governments must assume major direction over their economy—in many cases more than they would like. As one of the ministers in the central government of India told me, "We lack the basis in education and democratic experience amongst our people. Therefore, our government must speed up the process of co-operative development and industrial organization by virtually forcing it on our people in the hope that they will gradually learn to participate in the

government and management of these enterprises on a democratic basis. This is different from the evolution that has taken place in your Canadian society but we are racing against time."

It is this sense of urgency, the feeling that they are racing against time, that impresses one in meeting representatives from under-developed countries who come here to study our methods—this and their sense of devotion to the welfare of their people. This applies whether they are interested in improving the welfare of the peasants of Pakistan, in the industrialization of India, in more efficient production and marketing of rice in Burma, in the fishermen of Indonesia, Thailand or Ceylon, or in the rehabilitation of South Korea. I think of an African Chief, a cabinet minister in his own country, speaking of the needs of his people in flawless English, of extension workers of negro descent from the West Indies Federation anxious about the welfare of plantation workers, and of representatives from South American or Central American countries trying to improve the lot of mine-workers and small farmers. To a varying extent they have the same message—will you help us to learn your methods and adapt them to our needs? We want our people to improve their lot by adopting Western democratic methods. We are racing against time for the needs are great and we don't want our people to succumb to the lure of authoritarian methods. There we have it! It is in our selfish interest if you like to help these people, for otherwise the attraction of totalitarian methods may prove well nigh irresistible.

But man does not live by bread alone. There are acute divisions and problems in the under-developed countries based on racial and religious

differences. In some countries feudalism prevails. Anyone who surveys the world today is bound to be acutely aware of the burning desire for racial or national independence and the desire for recognition on the basis of equality with the white man. This desire for equality regardless of the alleged economic benefits of the white man's rule is at the root of the struggle against so-called colonialism. We must recognize the existence of these forces and exercise forbearance and patience while trying to give as much assistance as possible.

In spite of the burning problem of hunger, the under-developed countries desire loans rather than gifts; they desire to learn our methods and use these methods by themselves under their own conditions rather than to have us use these methods for their benefits. They need gifts to cope with famine and floods, they need to learn about our health, educational, welfare, co-operative, industrial, irrigation and other development programs at various levels. They need help in training technicians in various fields and they need long-term loans. But the more we can help them to do these things by themselves, at their own pace, with due regard to their own traditions and culture, and without conditions which we might like to impose, based on our own Western civilization, the more will we earn their respect and goodwill.

The greatest problem of giving assistance to under-developed countries is in Asia where the majority of the world's population lives. The attempts being made by these people to transform their society as we stand on the threshold of the atomic age must surely rank as one of the great events in the story of mankind. How they do it must also be of major concern to

the civilization of the West because they have the resources, the ability to learn and the sheer force of numbers in this age of power-politics. While China has adopted the authoritarian form of government to rebuild its society, India has adopted our Western democratic form of government in trying to give its hundreds of millions of people a better way of life. India's experiment with democratic government is surely one of the great events of history and the outcome is crucial for the West. If India succeeds in meeting the terribly urgent needs of its people on a democratic basis, it may well determine the course of events in other Asiatic countries, even in China. India is an Eastern country with an age-old civilization and she understands the rest of Asia. Yet she is also a democratic country on the Western model. If she succeeds in meeting the economic needs of her people on a democratic basis, she can act as a bridge between the East and the West in leading to a better understanding and thus help to preserve peace which is the overriding problem of our world. The example of India is perhaps the most vivid and important one of the need for co-operation with under-developed countries. But the need is almost world-wide and only a beginning has been made.

What can we do about it? Well, we are increasing various forms of assistance under the Colombo Plan. Our government has recently decided on measures, including loans, to help India make greater use of our surplus wheat. Our Federal and Provincial Governments, our universities, co-operatives, and various other agencies have shown an increasing willingness to take trainees from under-developed countries and send technical missions to them. This is all to the good as far

as it goes and the countries concerned appreciate what is being done.

But it is only a drop in the bucket in view of the problems of hunger and want which face the majority of the human race. When we consider the various forces which are at work in the world today, we cannot help but realize that what happens in the under-developed countries, especially in South-East Asia, may well determine our own future and the future of the West. These under-privileged people are in urgent need of our help and we in turn need their support, understanding and goodwill if the type of world order we hope for is to be realized.

What we need, therefore, I suggest, is to increase our assistance to them even if it means some sacrifice or burden on our part compared with the soft, comfortable standard of living we enjoy. This may not be welcome to us or other relatively well-to-do nations of the West but we may have to face these hard facts of life in our shrunken world in the atomic age—an age in which the pending conquest of outer space poses still further problems.

What about our Icelandic group in Canada—this “strand of the Canadian fabric” to use Judge Lindal’s reference in his book on Saskatchewan Icelanders? We are interested in preserving our tradition and culture not only because of the affection we have for the old land but because of our belief that by so doing we add something to the new. The struggle for economic and political independence that prevailed in Iceland during the nineteenth century and even the early part of this century should make us more understanding and tolerant to some of the emotional and nationalistic forces which agitate some of the under-devel-

oped countries today and which make it difficult to deal with their purely economic needs. As citizens of Canada we can do our part, either singly or in cultural groups, such as this club, to study these problems, help the rest of our people to see the need for more action by Canada and other advanced nations in giving assistance to these countries.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier is reported to have said that the twentieth century would be Canada’s century. This may not be realized from the standpoint of wealth and population. But Canada, a neighbor of the United States and a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, which includes such a large part of the world’s population, may be in a unique position of leadership in many ways, including that of taking the lead in giving more assistance to needy countries, especially since India, Ceylon and Pakistan are members of the Commonwealth. This may well be a major role for Canada in the future.

A great orator and writer of the nineteenth century, Victor Hugo, expressed his hope for the future as follows:

“In the twentieth century war will be dead; the scaffold will be dead, frontier boundaries will be dead, dogmas will be dead; man will live. He will possess something higher than these . . . a great country, the whole earth, and a great hope, the whole heaven.”

In view of what has happened since the turn of the century, this hope may seem tragically remote. Yet it is a hope which must be realized if mankind is to survive. Perhaps we can start on the road to this goal if we realize that in thinking of the needs of other nations we are our brother’s keeper.

IN THE NEWS

APPOINTED AS SENATOR



G. S. Thorvaldson

The Prime Minister of Canada, John Diefenbaker, announced the appointment of Gunnar Solmundur Thorvaldson, a Winnipeg lawyer and business man, to the Senate, in January last.

Born at Riverton, Manitoba, in 1901, Mr. Thorvaldson becomes the first Canadian Senator of Icelandic descent and the first Conservative appointment from Manitoba in many years.

He has had a long connection with the Conservative party as an official of constituency organizations and as a member in the Legislative Assembly from 1941 to 1949.

In recent years, Mr. Thorvaldson came into prominence nationally and internationally as the Dominion Presi-

dent of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

He is board-chairman, president, chairman, vice-president or director of nine companies including the Western Gypsum Products Limited, Marshall-Wells of Canada Limited, trust, loan, manufacturing and other companies. In law Mr. Thorvaldson is head of the firm formerly known as Andrews, Andrews & Co., and now as Thorvaldson, Eggertson & Co. leading law firm in Winnipeg.

"Solly" as he is known to his friends is a son of the late Sveinn Thorvaldson, O.B.E., a prominent business man and former M.L.A. for Gimli, and Margret (Solvundson) Thorvaldson. His grandfather came from Dúki, Sæmundarhlíð in Skagafjörður and settled in Manitoba in 1887.

Following his elementary and high school education at Riverton and Arborg, Mr. Thorvaldson took his Arts degree at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, and his law degree at the University of Manitoba.

He and his wife Edna, nee Schwitzer, have three daughters and three grandchildren.

Senator Thorvaldson has a fine personality, is aggressive and an able speaker. To quote in part a recent article in the Winnipeg Tribune "if his political, business and legal career is any gauge of his prowess, he should be able to inject a good deal of vitality into the Upper House".

-A. E.

THE ANNUAL DINNER AND DANCE

The annual banquet and dance sponsored by the Icelandic Canadian Club, was held in the Blue Room of the Marlborough Hotel on January 24th, last.

Approximately two hundred persons attended.

The program was opened by the singing of O'Canada. Following Grace by Dr. Valdimar J. Eylands, greetings were extended on behalf of the Icelandic National League by the Vice-President, Rev. Philip M. Petursson, who read a message from the President, Dr. Richard Beck.

Alderman Paul Goodman brought greetings on behalf of Mayor Stephen Juba, from the City of Winnipeg and Judge Walter J. Lindal spoke briefly as the editor of the Icelandic Canadian.

The guest speaker was Dr. Tryggyi J. Oleson. His interesting address appears elsewhere in this issue. Dr. Oleson was introduced by Professor Haraldur Bessason.

Other items on the program featured vocal solos by Janet Reykdal, Pastor Eric H. Sigmar and a piano selection by Irene Guttormson.

Janet, a promising young singer, delighted the audience with English and Icelandic numbers. She is a pupil of Elma Gislason.

Pastor Sigmar, a powerful resonant basso, received great applause.

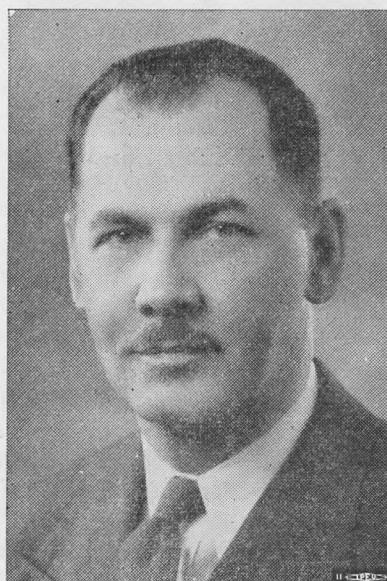
Miss Guttormson's solo was well received. Her wide range of technical proficiency and high degree of musical sensibility gave expression to warm richness of tone—a characteristic of a good pianist. She is a former pupil of Agnes Helga Sigurdson and Freda Simonson.

Dr. Gestur R. Kristjansson, President of the club, was in the chair and Mrs. Jóna Kristjanson, the piano accompanist.

Jimmie Gowler's orchestra was in attendance with Morton Fromson as floor-manager. —A.E.



APPOINTED TO HOSPITAL COMMISSION



Reverend Philip M. Petursson

Reverend Philip M. Petursson was re-elected to the Winnipeg Municipal Hospital Commission, for a term of two years, on January 3.

Reverend Petursson has been on the board for three years. Prior to this appointment he was a Trustee on the Winnipeg School Board for several years.

Philip Petursson is the minister of the First Unitarian Church in Winnipeg.

GETS DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Dr. Keith S. Grimson

Dr. Keith S. Grimson, professor of surgery in the Duke University Medical School in the United States, has been named recipient of a 1958 Modern Medicine Distinguished Achievement Award. He is one of nine physicians in the United States cited by the Journal "Modern Medicine" for outstanding contributions to medical progress. Selection of the citation winners was made by the board of editors from nominations submitted by medical school deans and by readers of the Journal, a semi-monthly publication of large circulation, devoted to diagnosis and treatment.

That Dr. Grimson was selected by men with knowledge of his work adds to the value of the award.

Dr. Grimson graduated from the Medical School at the University of North Dakota and the Rush Medical College. He did special work at the University of Chicago, where he was instructor in surgery for awhile.

During the year 1939, he was a research Fellow of the Belgian-American Exchange and spent a year in Ghent,

Belgium, where he worked with Dr. Heymans, a Nobel prize winner.

Dr. Grimson has been professor of Surgery at Duke University Medical School since 1942. He is a diplomate of the American College of Surgery.

He does much research work and to quote in part a recent article in Durham Morning Herald, Durham, N. C. — "a spokesman for the board of editors said that—medicine, surgery, physiology, and pharmacology have been uniquely combined by Dr. Grimson in his studies of the autonomic system, primarily in ulcer, hypertension and peripheral vascular disease —"

In 1940, Dr. Grimson performed the first total sympathectomy for relief of hypertension (high blood pressure). This operation involves severing a portion of the sympathetic nervous system. He has also conducted research with a number of drugs for relief of high blood pressure, ulcers and other ills.

Dr. Keith S. Grimson was written up in the 1957 Who's Who in America.

His father, also a man of distinction and good renown, is Guðmundur Grimson, Chief Justice of the State of North Dakota Supreme Court in Bismarck, N. D.

—A.E.

★

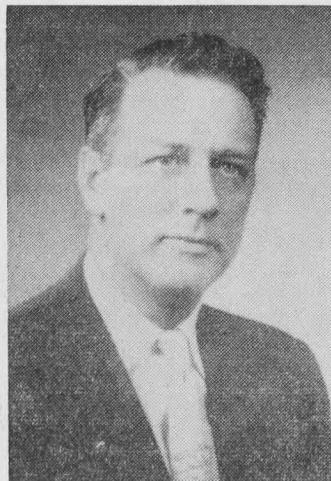
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Irene Eggertson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kjartan Eggertson of Hecla, Manitoba, was recently awarded the Lisgar Lodge Memorial scholarship of \$200.00 for high scholastic standing in Grade twelve.

She took Grade eleven at the Hecla school and Grade twelve at the Riverton High School.

Irene is now attending the Manitoba Teachers' College in Tuxedo, Manitoba.

**JON G. JOHNSON PROMOTED
MANAGER WITH CANADIAN
WESTINGHOUSE**



Jon G. Johnson

Jon G. Johnson, of Winnipeg, has been promoted manager of Canadian Westinghouse, responsible for all divisions of the Company and its subsidiaries in the Western District, which includes Western Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Included under the one management are the apparatus, Industrial, Electronics, Consumer Products divisions, and others.

Mr. Johnson joined Canadian Westinghouse in 1949, as service engineer. Since then his rise has been rapid. He was promoted sales manager of apparatus, in Regina, Sask., in 1951; Branch Manager, in 1953, and District Manager, Western District, with headquarters in Winnipeg, in 1955.

Membership in professional organizations includes the Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of Manitoba, the Engineering Institute of Canada, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, the Canadian Electrical Association, and the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. Membership in service clubs and other

organizations includes the Winnipeg Rotary Club, the Khartoum Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., of Winnipeg, and the Manitoba Club.

Mr. Johnson, who is Winnipeg born, is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Helgi Johnson, of 1023 Ingersoll St., Winnipeg.

Mr. Johnson is married to Rosa, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Petur Petursson, of the Shoal Lake district, near Lundar, Manitoba. They have five children.

★

CHOISES MILITARY CAREER

Comparatively few young Icelanders have chosen a military career in peace-time, but Lieutenant Brian Edward Thorsteinson is one who has done this.

Born in Winnipeg, Man., on June 19th, 1927, son of Kristján and Thelma Thorsteinson, he joined the Highland Cadets while still in Junior High School. When he enlisted in the Reserve Army during the war he was still under sixteen years of age, but earned the rank of sergeant by the time he entered the University of Manitoba and as a member of the University training Corps, he attended camps at Picton, Ontario and Shilo, Manitoba.

After two years at the University, he joined the staff of the New York Insurance Company as a salesman, then took a position with the Hudson's Bay Interior Stores and was stationed at Flin Flon, Manitoba. That same year, 1948, Brian married Miss Donna Lewis of Picton, Ont. They have one daughter, Janet.

In 1950, they came back to Winnipeg, and Brian joined the City Police Force, but a year later applied for a commission in the permanent Army and went to Victoria, B.C. as

a Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Artillery.

In the seven years of military service with the permanent forces he has been stationed in various parts of Canada, sent to an American base in Alabama for a course in modern warfare, to Valcartier, Quebec, for a course in French, Shilo, Manitoba for a course in higher mathematics, where he remained for some months as an instructor, a post he had also held at Camp Borden, Ontario.

In the meantime Brian wrote examinations for entrance to the Royal Military College of Science at Shrivenham, England. He obtained the necessary qualifications and is at present studying. He and his wife and daughter reside at Stratton-St. Margarets and will be overseas for the next two years.

Brian's grandparents were Baldwin and Anna Sigurdson of the Glenboro district and Þorsteinn and Johanna Einarson of Borgarnes and Reykjavik, Iceland. ★

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Hannes Anderson of Winnipeg celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception on Sunday, March 2, at the home of their son-in-law and daughter Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Freeman, 697 Strathcona Street.

Both were born in Iceland. Mrs. Anderson came to Winnipeg in 1903 and Mr. Anderson in 1905. They were married in Winnipeg on March 3, 1908 and have lived here since.

They have four children, Bertha (Mrs. Eyolfur Hallson), Bena (Mrs. T. H. Freeman), Olafur and Skuli, all of Winnipeg. There are eight grandchildren.

Mr. Anderson was employed by the Canada Bread Company until his retirement in 1949.



Norman S. Bergman

At a recent meeting of the Brandon Chamber of Commerce, **Norman S. Bergman** of Brandon, Manitoba, was appointed Secretary-Manager and Industrial Commissioner, effective April 1st. Mr. Bergman was also appointed Manager of the Western Canada Trade Fair by the Directors of the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba.

Last October, Mr. Bergman was elected a Director of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce; he is also the Director from Brandon to the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce.

He is vice-president of MacArthur and Sons Ltd., the Brandon Body Works, President of Brandon Kiwanis and Country Club and Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee of the Brandon Air Cadet Squadron.

Mr. Bergman is Chairman of the Brandon Winter Employment, whose purpose is to work with the National Employment Service in helping to

alleviate seasonal unemployment in Brandon and Western Manitoba.

Norman Bergman is married and has two sons. He is the son of Mrs. H. A. Bergman and the late Mr. Justice Hjalmar A. Bergman of Winnipeg.

★

In a recent issue of the Pacific Lutheran College Bulletin it is reported that **Dr. Herbert M. Axford**, head of the department of Economics and Business Administration, was granted the Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1957 by the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Axford's thesis was a study of small businesses.

Dr. Axford graduated in Commerce from the University of Manitoba in 1941 and received his Master's degree from the University of Toronto in 1947.

Don N. Axford, his brother, has been promoted to a newly created post of Chief Research Geologist in the West for Mobil Oil of Canada Limited. Mr. Axford graduated as Bachelor of Science from the University of Manitoba in 1948 and joined the Mobil Oil of Canada Limited, the same year. Since that time he has worked throughout the West in various exploration activities of the company.

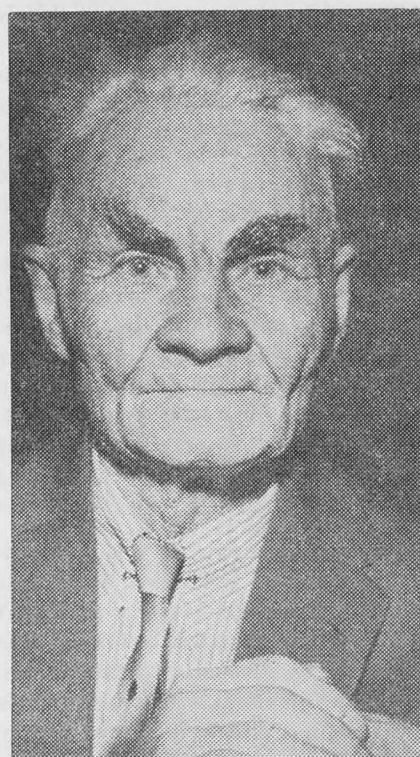
Both brothers are married. Dr. Axford lives in Parkland, Wash., and Don W. in Calgary, Alberta. They are the sons of Ethel Lára (Middal) Axford and the late Gudmundur Axford of Winnipeg.

★

STEFAN HANSEN ADVANCES

The Board of Directors of The Great West Life Assurance Co. have announced that Stefan Hansen, F.S.A., formerly Director of Group Insurance has been appointed Vice-President and Director of Group Insurance.

MANITOBA'S – CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



Walter Johnson

Walter Johnson, 69, a pioneer prospector of the north, who originated the \$175 million nickel development at Moak Lake, Manitoba, was named Manitoba's 1957 Citizen of the Year.

He was chosen for the award by a poll of public opinion and a panel of judges sponsored by the Winnipeg Tribune.

Termed as Manitoba's Man of the Century, Walter Johnson represents the men who unrolled the map of the province in the 20th century, filling the emptiness above the 54th parallel with claimstakes, then railroads, highways and entire towns.

Walter was born at Eyjarfjörður in

Iceland in 1888. His parents were Ásgeir and Kristín Jónsson.

When he was six months old, his family emigrated to Canada and settled on a homestead near Calder, Saskatchewan.

Walter left school after the eighth grade and took up a farm of his own near Togo, Sask., when he was eighteen. Unsuccessful and penniless in 1917, he joined the army and arrived overseas just as the war ended. He came back to farm at Pelly, Sask., but met with several years of crop failures. In 1923 he was again destitute and decided to go "north" to change his luck. He arrived at The Pas in the winter of 1924 and took a job cutting cordwood in the bush.

During the next 32 years, Walter spent a life of loneliness in isolated cabins in the Moak-Mystery Lakes area where he alternately trapped and prospected with some small success. He experimented with the growing of vegetables, and twice grew Number One wheat successfully.

Last year, Walter hit the jackpot. The wealth that tumbled from his strike at Moak Lake overflowed into the pockets of a province and a nation.

He decided the best way to enjoy his money was prospecting on a big scale. Today, his syndicate prospects in four-seater aircraft and a \$4,000 "swamp buggy" bombardier, using electro-magnet equipment worth \$4,000, a \$3,000 diamond drill and a \$500 magnetometer.

Otherwise, money made few changes in Walter Johnson's life. He was married four years ago and he and his wife now live in an eight-room house in Flin Flon.

During a course of interviews by the Winnipeg Tribune, Walter said — "but I still spend most of my time

in the bush. When you start a job, you like to keep at it." —A. E.

★

MACLEODS' FAIRY FLAG OF VIKING ORIGIN?

When Dame Flora Macleod, chief of the Macleod Clan, visited Winnipeg in January she appeared on CBC television and, among other things, described a flag in her own Dunvegan Castle believed to be of Viking origin.

That prompted the Icelandic Canadian to seek with Dame Flora an interview which she readily granted at the home of her Winnipeg host, Rev. Dr. Hugh A. MacLeod.

Where the flag came from and when it came to Dunvegan Castle is unknown, Dame Flora said. It is believed to have been at the castle for many hundred years, still remarkably well preserved.

The flag is made of silk and its color has now become to be that of corn. It is carefully darned or embroidered in red.

It is thought it may have been brought to Dunvegan by Harald Hardrada (Haraldur Hardradi) and his followers. It is believed to have been made in Syria or Rhodes, and came from there with Vikings who were known to have visited the Near East. One conjecture, carried down from time past, in that it was originally from a saint's shirt.

Some years ago, Dame Flora said, it was taken to London to be treated with preservatives by a firm which had so treated cloth and raiment taken from the tomb of King Tutankhamen in Egypt. Dame Flora said it is in fairly good state of preservation.

One thing Dame Flora emphasized. The flag is known as the Fairy Flag of the MacLeods and is viewed as a symbol of good luck. Mythological tales are woven around it.

One version says an early chieftain married a fairy, and that she gave him the flag when she returned to Fairy-land.

Before the interview was half over Dame Flora, given a copy of the Icelandic Canadian, was asking the questions instead of this interviewer. The reason—the MacLeod Clan publishes a similar magazine annually.

Dame Flora was in Winnipeg in the course of a world tour of MacLeod Clan societies which took her to South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Canada. She met with Winnipeg clan members at a reception and program.

Dunvegan Castle, on the Isle of Skye, off the west coast of Scotland, is the seat of what are historically known as the Dunvegan MacLeods. It is the home of the chief.

Dame Flora is the daughter of Sir Reginald MacLeod, the 24th chief, who died in 1935. Dunvegan is believed

to be the only castle in Britain still occupied by the descendants of the family that built it. —T.O.S.T.



Sigurdur E. Skaftfeld, manager of the Lampman Co-op of Saskatchewan has been appointed the District Representative in District 5B by Federated Co-operative Limited. The appointment became effective on November 1, 1957.

Mr. Skaftfeld was born in Baldur, Manitoba and received his public and high school education there. He served in the Canadian Army in 1955 and 1945. After business experience in the accounting, sales and merchandising field he became general manager of the Edward Co-op in 1956. In 1957 he was named manager of the Lampman Co-op.

Mr. Skaftfeld is married and has two daughters.

SUMMARY

Lögberg, one of the first Icelandic weeklies to be published in America, marked its 70th anniversary on December 19, 1957.

To commemorate the occasion, a special paper was issued which gave an account of its history.

With 44 years service with Lögberg, Einar Páll Jónsson, the well-known poet, is the editor-in-chief, a position he has held since 1928. His wife, Ingibjörg (Sigurgeirsson) has been the assistant editor for the past eighteen years.



In a recent issue of the Peace River Block News, prominence and a good description is given to the wedding of Canada's Champion bowler, Ralph E. Atkinson and Doreen Lois Hunter

of Dawson Creek, British Columbia.

The wedding took place in the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on February 8. The Reverend Father Murphy officiated.

Ralph is the eldest son of Ralph and Emily (nee Nelson) Atkinson of Dawson Creek, formerly of Wynyard, Saskatchewan. The bride is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Hunter of Dawson Creek.

Enthusiastic in bowling, Ralph won the Canadian Championship at Toronto, Ontario in 1956.

Ralph is a nephew of the world-traveller and famous author Sveinn Johnson of New York City. His grandmother, Vigdís Bjarnadóttir Samson, formerly of Elfros, Sask., died recently in Winnipeg at the age of 102.

Erlingur K. Eggertson, B.A. L.L.B has opened an office for the Practice of Law at Gimli, Manitoba, with a branch at Arborg, open on Thursdays each week.

Born in Winnipeg, Mr. Eggertson is a graduate from the University of Manitoba.

He is the son of Mrs. Thorey Eggertson and the late Arni Eggertson of 256 Waterloo St., Winnipeg.

★

A television program of informative and interesting interviews, recently featured Mrs. H. F. Danielson, Mrs. J. B. Skaptason and Professor Haraldur Bessason.

Mrs. Danielson spoke about the Icelandic pioneers, Mrs. Skaptason about Icelandic dishes as she demonstrated the baking of "þönnukökur", and Professor Bessason answered questions regarding Iceland—the climate, people and language, with particular reference to the chair in Icelandic language and literature at the University of Manitoba.

★

Gail Johnson daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. V. Johnson, 217 Hertford Blvd., was recently chosen Queen of the University of Manitoba Engineers Power Prom. She is in first year Arts at United College.

You can be sure
of the lowest prices every day of
the week at **SAFEWAY**!

Be Sure ... Shop **SAFEWAY** and Save!



CANADA SAFEWAY LIMITED

Subscribe to The Icelandic Canadian